

Biography of: Nathaniel Risley
By: Carla Welsh (nee Seitz)

Nathaniel Risley was most likely buried in Zion United Methodist Church Churchyard, located on Zion Road in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey, because per deed from 1839, Nathaniel's plantation was located on the northeast side of Tilton Road (that area was known as Risleyville and located in Egg Harbor Township by Smiths Landing on Lakes Bay) which is today about a 5 to 10 minute drive away from this churchyard. At the time of Nathaniel's death, people were no longer burying their dead on their farms (that practice stopped by about 1810) and they were burying the dead in churchyards/burial grounds (per writings I have read through written by well known historian/genealogist the late Miss Sarah A Risley, one of the first members of The Atlantic County Historical Society).

Here is a link to a deed which mentions the location of Nathaniel's plantation. In this deed from 29 APR 1839, Nathaniel Risley was already deceased. This deed involves Nathaniel's son Samuel Risley and wife Mary "Polly" Stebbins conveying land to Samuel Samson in Egg Harbor Township, and the deed mentions it was part of Nathaniel's old plantation, somewhere in the area of Tilton Road. It would make sense they conveyed the land to Samuel Samson, because he ended up owning land on maps by Evin Jeffries, Jr. and wife Hannah Risley, along Ocean Heights Avenue (formerly called Neck Road) in Steelmanville, Egg Harbor Township, and Hannah is daughter of Samuel Risley, and granddaughter of Nathaniel Risley.

Link to deed from the Atlantic County NJ Deed Books:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C37Y-XSVS-Z>

Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery was free for all. Anyone could be buried there. Many of the headstones were destroyed and no longer exist. Nathaniel Risley is likely one of the headstones that no longer exists. It would make the most sense that was his final place of burial, since he lived so close by, and many descendants of his line are buried in this churchyard, or in Zion Cemetery (which is not as old as this churchyard) which is directly across the street on Zion Road.

Nathaniel Risley was born 18 MAR 1759, and baptized 23 APR 1763, per church record in church book held by Christ Church in Philadelphia, PA. At that time, pastors were traveling to Egg Harbor Township to provide baptism.

Link to baptismal record (page 3, image 7):

https://philadelphiacongregations.org/records/item/ChristChurch.RectorsRegisters_Baptisms1763-1810_v031

Per Bible Record (in my possession which I obtained from Gloucester County Historical Society), Nathaniel Risley born 18 MAR 1759, is son of Jeremiah Risley and Margaret Doughty, and he married Sarah Steelman.

Nathaniel Risley served as Private in the Gloucester County NJ Militia during the Revolution. His father Jeremiah Risley served in the same as 2nd Lieutenant, and this is all per military documentation (in my possession). Nathaniel received Certificate 107, amounting to 1 pound, 13 shillings, and 9 pence, for the

depreciation of his Continental pay in the Gloucester County NJ Militia as Private (per record in my possession).

Per DEED made 3 SEP 1807, Nathaniel Risley and Sarah Risley [nee Steelman] his wife conveyed land to Daniel Lake. All parties of Egg Harbor Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey.

This deed states Nathaniel Risley is son of Jeremiah Risley.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY NJ DEED BOOK L, PAGE 279, etc.

LINK:

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QB-5KXY>

Nathaniel was a bayman. He probably was an oyster farmer. He owned a lot of marsh by Turtle Gut in Lakes Bay, per deeds. Egg Harbor Township was in Gloucester County, but in 1837, it became a part of Atlantic County, so deeds are found in both Gloucester and Atlantic County's Deed Books. Egg Harbor Township used to be known as "Greate eggharbour Township." It is not to be confused with Little Egg Harbor Township (originally in Burlington County), or Egg Harbor City (not established until 1850s), which are different places.

Nathaniel Risley is a descendant of Richard Risley, born 1615 in England, who was an original founder of Hartford, Connecticut, and Jeremy Adams, another founder. Here is how he gets back:

Nathaniel Risley is son of Jeremiah Risley and Margaret Doughty.

Nathaniel Risley is grandson of Jeremiah Risley and Dinah Gale.

Nathaniel Risley is great-grandson of Richard Risley and Rebecca Adams.

Nathaniel Risley is 2nd great-grandson of Richard Risley and Mary ____.

Nathaniel Risley married Sarah Steelman. Sarah was born about 1760 in Egg Harbor Township, and died there in 5 JAN 1850 (per register of death document, in my possession). Sarah is the daughter of Peter Steelman and Sarah ____, granddaughter of James Steelman and 2nd wife Katherine Ouster, great-granddaughter of Hans Mansson and Ella Stille, and 2nd great-granddaughter of Olof Stille, per primary documentation and my DNA. I have proved Sarah's ancestry back to Olof Stille, who was born 1610 in Sweden, and I have forefather status with The Swedish Colonial Society through this line. Olof Stille was an early Swedish settler, who came to the present day USA in 1641 aboard the vessel Charitas. Olof's daughter Ella married Hans Mansson (an indentured servant who later became a free man), and after Hans died, the surname was changed to "Steelman."

The children of Nathaniel Risley and Sarah Steelman are:

1. Richard Nathaniel Risley (married Elizabeth Bevis)
2. Steelman Risley (died intestate shortly before JUN 1832 per deeds and probate records; unmarried).
3. Peter Risley (married Mary Baker).
4. Jeremiah Risley, moved to Wabash County, Illinois. Married twice: Jane Phar and Rachel Tilton.
5. Nathaniel Risley, (married Sarah "Sallie" Casto).
6. David Nathaniel Risley (married Miriam "Mary" Ireland).
7. Samuel Risley (married Mary "Polly" Stebbins).
8. Roxanna Risley (married Larner Divins).
9. Millicent Risley (married Nehemiah Blackman).

10. Esther/Hester Risley (married John Blackman).

11. David Risley, baby died young.

Many deeds can be found connecting Nathaniel's children to him. One such deed, which connects Nathaniel's 7 sons to him, is in Gloucester County, New Jersey Deed Book C-3, starts on page 472, scanned to FamilySearch.org.

LINK:

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4K-49M5-1>

Per deeds, Nathaniel Risley died intestate. DEED FOUND WHICH STATES NATHANIEL DIED INTESTATE!!! The deed wasn't made until 6 FEB 1850, because Nathaniel's wife Sarah had just died 5 JAN 1850. The 6 FEB 1850 deed involves Nathaniel and Sarah's daughter Esther Blackman:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C37Y-6K6P>

Here is another deed involving more:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C37Y-6K6P>

Last trace of Nathaniel Risley alive is in a deed dated 1st day, 3rd month, 1821, where "Nathaniel Risley SR" conveys land to Solomon Adams. The deed states Nathaniel got the land from "his father, Jeremiah Risley." Pages 481-483, Gloucester County NJ Deed Book XX

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4X-P7V8-G>

I have yet to find Nathaniel's intestate paperwork. I have scoured through probate records and deeds. He died intestate after the deed from 1821, and before the 1830 US Census.

Memorial written by and posted to FindaGrave.com by: Carla Welsh (nee Seitz).

Nathaniel Risley and Sarah Steelman are my 5th great-grandparents. My line is through their son Samuel Risley, who married Mary "Polly" Stebbins. I have proven my line with The Swedish Colonial Society, and have forefather status back to Olof Stille. I also have all required documentation to join DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution).